

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in strong support of the application submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) for a grant in the amount of \$20 million from the FY2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. Federal aid would be used to replace the Neil R. Underwood Bridge in the Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project. The Neil R. Underwood Bridge carries NH Route 1A over the Hampton River at the inlet to Hampton Harbor and is a vital transportation link between Hampton Beach to the north and Seabrook, NH to the south.

The project addresses the needs of New Hampshire's coastal communities and supports the economy of the region by replacing a structurally-deficient and functionally-obsolete bridge with a new bridge just west of its current location. The existing bridge is considered both scour critical and fracture critical, making it more prone to certain types of failure. Built in 1949, it is experiencing extensive deterioration of the plate girders, floorbeams, bracing, and bearings; deterioration and movement of the substructure; and has outdated mechanical and electrical systems that no longer meet modern design codes and safety standards. The bridge has been repaired or rehabilitated at least six times since its construction, including an emergency repair in 2017 when the bridge became stuck in the raised position because of deterioration of the structure's mechanical system. In addition, this bridge – which serves a vibrant beach community and is located on the East Coast Greenway – is too narrow to safely accommodate cyclist and pedestrian traffic.

With support from RAISE, a new, fixed bridge would be built to convey vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians in a safer, more efficient manner and provide increased navigational clearance for marine users. This new proposed bridge is a 7-span, fixed-structure with a total length of approximately 1300'. It would carry two 12' lanes, 8' shoulders for bicycle passage, and 6' sidewalks for pedestrian passage across Hampton Harbor. It would also provide a significantly-increased horizontal clearance for marine users and would be set at a height that accommodates all known users of the harbor. A higher clearance would also allow for more frequent dredging of the harbors by providing clearance for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Special Purpose (dredge) Vessel (S/P/V) *Currituck*.

This proposed new bridge is critically important to the connectivity, economic vitality and quality of life for coastal New Hampshire residents who rely on this bridge to support beach tourism and recreation. It would also provide better access to Hampton and Seabrook Harbors and the Atlantic Ocean for commercial vessels. The project is consistent with the state of good repair plan for NHDOT, and it appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

This proposal represents a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for area residents and visitors and ensure the continued economic vitality of the communities of Hampton and Seabrook. I strongly support the application from NH DOT for a FY2021 RAISE grant. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Jarvis in my office at 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Shaheen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

United States Senate

July 28, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write today in strong support of the application by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for a FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.

Hampton and Seabrook are home to New Hampshire's busiest beach communities, which draw locals and tourists, especially throughout the summer months. Due to its age, location in a harsh coastal climate, and desire to provide multi-modal facilities, replacement of the Hampton Harbor Bridge structure is necessary to meet the needs of these communities.

The existing Hampton Harbor Bridge is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete, and is too narrow to safely accommodate cyclist and pedestrian traffic. The bridge has been repaired or rehabilitated at least six times since its construction, with emergency repairs made in 2017 when the bridge became stuck in the raised position due to deterioration of the structure's mechanical system. A new, updated bridge will be built to much more efficiently and safely carry vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians over the river and provide increased navigational clearance for marine users.

This proposed new bridge is critically important to the connectivity, economic vitality, and quality of life for coastal New Hampshire residents who rely on this bridge to support beach tourism and recreation, and by allowing access for commercial vessels between Hampton and Seabrook Harbors and the Atlantic Ocean. The project is consistent with the state of good repair plan for NHDOT, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

This necessary infrastructure update would be a significant investment for New Hampshire's Seacoast region. I strongly urge you to look favorably upon this application. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 603-622-2204 if we can be of further assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

CHRIS PAPPAS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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AND THE ENVIRONMENT



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House of Representatives

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July 22, 2021

Secretary Peter P. M. Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: NHDOT application for RAISE Grant for the Neil R. Underwood Bridge Replacement/
Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to convey my support for the 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant (RAISE 2021) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of \$20 million being submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for replacement of the Neil R. Underwood Bridge in the Town of Hampton, known as the Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project. The Neil R. Underwood Bridge carries NH Route 1A over the Hampton River at the inlet to Hampton Harbor and is a vital transportation link between Hampton Beach to the north and Seabrook, NH to the south. I ask that you take this application into thoughtful consideration.

The project addresses the needs of the communities and supports the economy of the region by replacing the structurally-deficient and functionally-obsolete bridge with a new bridge just west (inland) of its current location. Built in 1949, the existing scour critical and fracture critical bridge consists of thirteen spans, twelve fixed spans and one movable, bascule span, over the navigation channel. It is experiencing extensive deterioration of the plate girders, floor beams, bracing, and bearings; deterioration and movement of the substructure; and has outdated mechanical and electrical systems that no longer meet modern design codes and safety standards. Additionally, this bridge, which serves a vibrant beach community and is located on the East Coast Greenway, is too narrow to safely accommodate cyclist and pedestrian traffic.

The bridge has been repaired or rehabilitated at least six times since its construction, with emergency repairs made in 2017 when the bridge became stuck in the raised position due to deterioration of the structure's mechanical system. Due to its age, location in a harsh coastal climate, and desire to provide multi-modal facilities, replacement of this structure is required. A new, fixed bridge will be built to convey vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians much more efficiently and safely over the river and provide increased navigational clearance for marine users.

This new proposed bridge is a 7-span, fixed-structure, with a total length of approximately 1300'. It will carry two 12' lanes, 8' shoulders for bicycle passage, and 6' sidewalks for pedestrian passage across Hampton Harbor. The new bridge will also accommodate a significantly increased horizontal clearance for marine users, increasing the safety of their transit under the bridge, and will be set at a height that accommodates all know users of the harbor and allows for more for frequent dredging of the harbors by providing clearance for the USACE Special Purpose (dredge) Vessel (S/P/V) *Currituck*.

This proposed new bridge is critically important to the connectivity, economic vitality, and quality of life for coastal New Hampshire residents who rely on this bridge to support beach tourism and recreation, and by allowing access for commercial vessels between Hampton and Seabrook Harbors and the Atlantic Ocean. The project is consistent with the state of good repair plan for NHDOT, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

The proposed application represents a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for area residents and visitors, and ensure the continued economic vitality of the communities of Hampton and Seabrook.

I am pleased to offer my support for this application without reservation and ask that you give it due consideration. Please contact Kari Thurman in my office at (603) 935-6710 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Pappas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Congressman Chris Pappas

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 28, 2021

Secretary Peter P. M. Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: NHDOT application for RAISE Grant for the Neil R. Underwood Bridge Replacement/
Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I strongly support the 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE 2021) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of \$20 million being submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for replacement of the Neil R. Underwood Bridge in the Town of Hampton, known as the Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project. The Neil R. Underwood Bridge carries NH Route 1A over the Hampton River at the inlet to Hampton Harbor and is a vital transportation link between Hampton Beach to the north and Seabrook, NH to the south.

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This new proposed bridge is a 7-span, fixed-structure, with a total length of approximately 1300'. It will carry two 12' lanes, 8' shoulders for bicycle passage, and 6' sidewalks for pedestrian passage across Hampton Harbor. The new bridge will also accommodate a

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significantly increased horizontal clearance for marine users, increasing the safety of their transit under the bridge, and will be set at a height that accommodates all known users of the harbor and allows for more frequent dredging of the harbors by providing clearance for the USACE Special Purpose (dredge) Vessel (S/P/V) *Currituck*.

This proposed new bridge is critically important to the connectivity, economic vitality, and quality of life for coastal New Hampshire residents who rely on this bridge to support beach tourism and recreation, and by allowing access for commercial vessels between Hampton and Seabrook Harbors and the Atlantic Ocean. The project is consistent with the state of good repair plan for NHDOT, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

The proposed application represents a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for area residents and visitors, and ensure the continued economic vitality of the communities of Hampton and Seabrook. I am pleased to offer my support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT